

**Watson Township Board Meeting
September 3, 2015**

Called to order: 7:01 P.M.

Present:

Rod Zeinstra, Chuck Andrysiak, Pam Brown, Sue Jones and Kelli Morris.

Absent:

None.

Agenda:

Kelli made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Mary Whiteford under reports, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

Mary Whiteford:

Mrs. Whiteford gave a short explanation of her decision to run for office in November 2016 and the committees of which she now serves. One of the committees she is currently a member of is the Mental Health Department Committee.

Public Hearing for Fire/EMS Special Assessment:

The public hearing was opened for the Fire and EMS Special Assessment. The supervisor summarized the resolution for Fire/EMS Special Assessment. Rod made a motion to adopt Resolution # 09-03-2015-1 Special Assessment District for Fire Department Operations and Equipment and Emergency Medical Services Operations and Equipment, Sue supported, roll call vote: Rod-yes; Sue-yes; Chuck-yes; Kelli-yes; and Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the resolution passed by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes. Rod made a motion to close the Public Hearing, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Hopkins Area Fire:

The supervisor read and summarized a report from Hopkins Fire Chief- Tim McKinnon.

Planning Commission Report:

No meeting.

Library Reports:

The supervisor gave a synopsis of the J.C. Wheeler Library newsletter.

Cemetery Report:

Pam reported she has been working on replacing flags and repairing headstones at Hicks Cemetery. She also reported that the mowing service had hit another large headstone and knocked it off its foundation. The board discussed contacting Dave Kok and asking him to repair that headstone. There was also concern from someone about items coming up missing from the cemetery. Unfortunately, the board does not have any control over who frequents the cemetery.

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell:

Jon Campbell reported on the current topics at the county level. The commissioners are currently working on a resolution for dog licenses that includes year round licensing, and allowing the licenses to be sold at veterinarian's offices. There is also discussion of increasing the fees for dog licensing. It was Jon's suggestion to wait at least one year before the increase to evaluate the effect of the new resolution. He also reported that the chairs in the jury boxes are being replaced in the courtrooms. He mentioned that there is a movement in Lansing currently to remove 17 year olds from the "adult" court system and move them back to the juvenile system. He gave the board some information on the budget and timeline for the removal of the "old jail" and addition of the new parking area. Also, the county purchased a new bus for the transportation system.

Supervisor's Report:

Pam reported that she spoke with Phil Kernoodle and there is water under mining the road at Schanz Dr. and Crystal Lane. Therefore, they will be doing some gravel repair in that area. She also reported that the county is waiting on permits to spray the Pragmite and other weeds along the roadside.

Minutes:

Rod made a motion to approve the minutes for August 6, 2015, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Bills:

Rod made a motion to pay the bills for September in the amount of \$11,795.04, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue gave the treasurer's report with current bank balances.

Old Business:**1. Fence Bids and Survey:**

The board discussed the survey and the fence bids for Hicks Cemetery. The board also discussed a letter from JoAnne Coy received by all board members. The letter expressed concern that she had not been notified of the intent to install fence at Hicks Cemetery, even though she is the neighbor of the cemetery. Rod is in favor of discussing the issue and letter with the Coy's. The board decided that Rod and Chuck will make arrangements to meet with the Coy's to discuss the letter and fence options. The board also discussed having the cemetery surveyed and remarked on the South and East sides (with markers placed every 100 feet on the South side). Sue made a motion to have the cemetery surveyed on the South and East boundaries (marking the South boundary every 100 ft.), Rod supported, all in favor, motion carried.

New Business:**1. Snowplow Season:**

Pam explained that the bid for snowplowing will need to be more specific this season, as she was not satisfied with the plowing last season. The board will place an ad in the papers announcing that bids are being accepted and specifications can be obtained at the township office.

2. Consumer's Energy:

Consumer's Energy would like the board to pass a resolution changing the current street lighting contract. There are some questions on what it specifics of the resolution. The clerk will verify the intent and meaning and this resolution. Sue made a motion to table the resolution until further information is obtained, Rod supported, all in favor, motion carried.

3. Review Audit:

The board presented the audit review.

4. Change Bank:

Sue explained her dissatisfaction with our current bank accounts at ECCU. She has interest in changing banks and has looked into additional accounts at Chemical Bank. The board is in favor of changing.

Other Business:**5. John Hancock:**

Pam explained that at a recent meeting with the investment advisor it was offered to direct mail of the investment statements to participants. The board is in favor of this change.

6. Women's Restroom:

The supervisor explained that the contractor that had given a quote and advice on repairing the issue that causes the pipe to freeze in the winter in the women's restroom has decided he cannot do the work. The supervisor will get some plumbers and contractors to look at the issue and give some quotes on repair before winter.

Public Comment (for topics not on the agenda):

None.

Adjourn:

Sue made a motion to adjourn, Rod supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned: 9:01 P.M.